the public. It has been accordingly ruled that these officers, including the Commissioner, Devicolam Division, should ordinarily publish their tour programmes beforehand ; afford, while they are at taluk head-quarters, full opportunity to the ryots to represent their grievances and dispose of them promptly on personal hearing; meet the leading men of the taluk, ascertain their views on public questions and enlist their co-operation in matters affecting the people in general ; and last, but not least, make it a point to visit the interior and outlying parts of each taluk, so as to obtain first-hand information regarding the condition and requirements of those localities. The Land Revenue Department is the back-bone of the administration and the sympathy and co-operation of the highest officers of the department cannot but be appreciated by the people.

14. **Survey.**— The re-survey of the Nedumangad taluk made substantial progress. The field-work was completed in all the *pakuthies* of the taluk, though the Survey records of only 8 out of the 16 *pakuthies* were furnished to the Land Revenue Department.

15. **Forests.**—The total area of reserved forests was 2,346 square miles and 220 acres, and of the reserved lands, 136 square miles and 155 acres. Out of the latter, it is proposed to set apart an area of 7 square miles and 400 acres for grazing. Two new areas were finally notified as reserved forests. The settlement of the Alapra Reserve in the Kottayam Forest Division has been pending for a long time, owing to boundary disputes between the Government and the Edapalli Chief. There is also a dispute with the Vanjipuzha Chief regarding the southern boundary of the Peruvantanam Desam. The early settlement of these long-standing questions being found necessary, Mr. N. Rajaram Row, B. A., Senior Division Assistant, was promoted as Supernumerary Dewan Peishkar and detailed for that duty. The working plans of the Yerur, Kulathupuzha and Arienkavu Working Circles were sanctioned towards the close of 1091 and operations are expected to be started during the current year. The fellings in the Sandalwood Tract of the Anchanad valley were commenced during 1091. The total quantity of timber removed from the forests in 1091 was 12,38,552 cubic feet, against 16,36,448 cubic feet in 1090, showing a decline of 3,97,896 cubic feet, while the stock in hand rose from 10,09,034 cubic feet to 11,85,932 cubic feet or by 1,76,898 cubic feet. The depression in trade generally accounts for a large portion of the accumulation of stock remaining in hand. The question whether the further exploitation of timber should not be restricted, pending the disposal of this accumulation, is under consideration. Another question engaging attention is the mortality among the elephants in the possession of the department. A Veterinary officer has been deputed for training under the Special Veterinary Inspector of the Madras Forest Service, and he will be drafted to the Forest Department on return. An additional area of 100 acres of teak plantations was newly opened in 1091, raising the total area of teak plantations to 3,894 acres. The steady increase in the volume of teak-planting operations rendered the formation of a separate Forest Division necessary and a new division under the name of 'The Plantation Division' was constituted tentatively for one year from the beginning of 1092.

16. **Salt.**—The duty on salt in British India was raised from Bh. Re. 1 to Bh. Re. 1-as. 4 per maund with effect from the 1st March 1916. Under the Interportal Convention, a similar increase was effected in this State also. It is satisfactory to note that the total quantity of salt consumed rose from 9,67,441 maunds in 1090 to 9,99,483 maunds in 1091, *i. e.*, by 32,042 maunds, and the average consumption per head of population from 23·3 lbs. to 24·2 lbs., which is the highest figure on record. The total out-turn of home salt also rose from 3,41,639 maunds in 1090 to 4,76,903 maunds in 1091, *i. e.*, by 1,35,264 maunds, the percentage of out-turn to the total consumption being nearly 48.

17. **Excise.**—97,041 proof gallons of country spirits were consumed during the year, against 1,13,723 gallons in 1090, showing a decline of 14·7 per cent. As compared with 1089, the decline was as much as 30 per cent. As stated in m last Address, the Government would only feel happy to be assured that the

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